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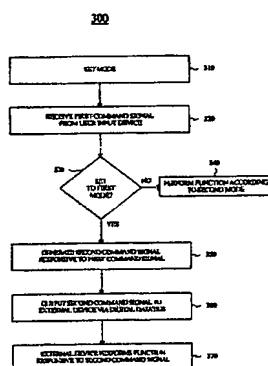
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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CONTROLLING AN EXTERNAL DEVICE BY REMAPPING KEYS ON A USER INPUT DEVICE



(57) Abstract: An apparatus (20) such as a television signal receiver controls an external device (40) such as a digital recording/reproduction device via a digital data bus (30) by remapping keys on a user input device (10). According to an exemplary embodiment, the apparatus includes an input/output terminal (13) operative to enable signal transfer between the television signal receiver (20) and an external device (40) via a digital data bus (30). A processor (14) is operative to detect a first command signal of a first control protocol from a user input device (10), and to detect one of first and second modes of the television signal receiver (20). The processor (14) detects the first mode in response to making a connection between the television signal receiver (20) and the external device (40) via the digital data bus (30), and detects the second mode in response to terminating the connection between the television signal receiver (20) and the external device (40) via the digital data bus (30). The processor (14) enables the input/output terminal (13) to output a second command signal of a second control protocol to the external device (40) via the digital data bus (30) responsive to the first command signal if the first mode is detected. The processor (14) enables a function of the television signal receiver (20) responsive to the first command signal without enabling output of the second command signal to the external device (40) if the second mode is detected.

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B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 4 817 203 A (TSURUMOTO ET AL) 28 March 1989 (1989-03-28) the whole document	1-24
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A	US 5 598 523 A (FUJITA ET AL) 28 January 1997 (1997-01-28) column 3, line 20 - line 39 column 5, line 9 - line 67	1-24

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

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